

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety
and Military Affairs
Friday, April 20, 2012
11:00 AM
Conference Room 312**

**RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 139, SEANTE DRAFT 1,
ENCOURAGING THE MILITARY STRATEGY OF FORWARD-BASING A VISIBLE
MILITARY FORCE IN HAWAII AND URGING THE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII TO CONTINUE WITH ITS WORK AS
THE LIAISON FOR HAWAII IN MATTERS RELATING TO THE MILITARY'S PRESENCE
IN HAWAII.**

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 139, Senate Draft 1, relating to encouraging the military strategy of forward-basing a visible military force in Hawaii and urging the Military Affairs Council (MAC) of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii to continue with its work as the liaison for Hawaii in matters relating to the military's presence in Hawaii.

The measure requires the state to express Hawaii's strong support of US security and foreign policy strategies established for the Asia Pacific and the continued use of the MAC, established at the request of the Governor of Hawaii as an unencumbered affiliate of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii in 1985, to serve as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the military.

The MAC has successfully served as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the U.S. military since 1985, and has assumed the added responsibility of providing oversight for the State's expanding defense industry, which accounts for generating more than \$12.2 billion annually into the state's economy and accounting for more than 101,500 jobs that collectively report household

earnings of more than \$3.5 billion annually. The work of the MAC has succeeded in protecting the defense industry from adverse actions that would cause serious declines in revenues and jobs, and is focused on enhancing Hawaii's role as the premier site for security operations in the Asia Pacific.

The MAC now faces the huge challenges posed by congressional actions that require the US Department of Defense to cut upwards of 500 billion dollars from its budget, with a potential to add \$500 billion more should budget sequestration be effected in January 2013. Every defense community in the Nation is now facing the threats of base closures and force realignments that will be necessitated by upwards of a trillion dollar reduction in the US defense budget.

The MAC will seek to enhance Hawaii's role in the security of the Asia Pacific as the state can ill-afford measures that would cause any reductions in defense spending.

In consideration of this measure, the MAC encourages the legislature to favorably act on its request for a state grant in aid that is essential to the state and Hawaii's small businesses gaining the full measure of benefits from the billions of defense dollars spent on small business contracts. The MAC has lacked this capability ever since state funding support was discontinued in the 1990s, thus depriving Hawaii's small businesses of guidance and assistance in defense contracting.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support on this important measure.

E. Dunbar
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TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO: SCR 139 (SSCR3402)
FORWARD-BASING A VISIBLE MILITARY FORCE IN HAWAII

Aloha Committee Members.

It is understandable that you are fearful especially when someone has been shaking your tree. Who would that be? Possibly Abercrombie because he wants to impress and please the U.S. military at all costs making him feel more powerful than just a governor in a quasi power grab to manipulate the military and be the kingpin that sends all soldiers to a Hawaiian vacation?

Chances are these soldiers will treat the Hawaiian people like they do the Iraqi or Afghan people which is a thought I don't want to entertain. The U.S. military has devastated these islands and people for over 100 years. Evidencing my strong objection to FORWARD-BASING A VISIBLE MILITARY FORCE IN HAWAII is SR10, moving through the legislature at this time: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE REPEAL OF COMBAT EXCLUSIONARY RULES which states, "WHEREAS, the United States military has an epidemic rate of rape in all branches of the armed services; thirty per cent of military women are raped while serving, seventy-one per cent are sexually assaulted, and ninety per cent are sexually harassed."

Or is the momentum from the Chamber of Commerce and their less than honest reasons for dabbling in places they have no business, specifically the U.S. military under the guise of disrupting the free flow of commerce and trade?

If China were to attack as you fear, it won't be with military armament but through the door you have provided, namely the free and open visitor program welcoming China to Hawaii. They will be businessmen carrying brief cases and laptops prepared to collect all the resources and accesses that have been so freely collateralized by the United States for the costs of illegally invading sovereign nations. This has also been advanced through the Preserve America Executive Order signing off on America's assets, which by the way, include historic sites and travel/tour revenue generating industries. Hawaii has been pilfered along with the continental United States through UNESCO, stupidity and blood.

Who will pay for forward-basing a visible military force in Hawaii?
I have the answer. Ironically it is CHINA.

The U.S. has played its hand poorly and China will walk down Hawaii's red carpet and collect, laughing all the way to THEIR bank. Chances are most of you won't even know it's happening. So, as to inundating Hawaii with more soldiers, you really have no justification.

You got your missile defense system against public outcry and destroyed the surrounding waters and soils. Does the missile defense NOT work? Was that a hype on the public as the reports indicate? Because, if forward-basing a visible military force in Hawaii means you fear a physical threat, then your missile defense should suffice. But then again the military "strategies" in the last 12 years have been complete folly at the cost of hundreds of thousands of innocents. Perhaps the U.S. and people like

Abercrombie are afraid the citizens of those illegally devastated countries will do the same?

More likely this is a fleecing; orchestrated by Abercrombie, with urging from lobbying defense contractors to squeeze the dollars out of the bankrupted Hawaiian economy and execute more land grabs for "national security". The U.S. is broke so it will be Hawaii's cost for an ignorant and unnecessary show of force, that can serve no other purpose than to invite more friction from abroad and at home.

Please leave this alone and stop pretending as though you are qualified to act as statesmen.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 10:28 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: sdinion@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR139 on 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR139

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Dinion
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sdinion@mac.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2012

Comments:

War spending is destroying our economy (<http://fcnl.org/issues/budget/taxes2011/>), and the US military is destroying our 'aina. Instead of encouraging war and militarism, we should be encouraging a more diverse and peaceful economy. Please vote against this resolution to send a message to demilitarize Hawai'i and deescalate the Pacific arms race. Mahalo.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:56 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: sailsonthesea@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR139 on 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR139

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: K.Douglas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sailsonthesea@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/19/2012

Comments:

Military presence in Hawaii is encroaching on the culture and way of life of the local people. Military "building" is simply not necessary, and would serve only to exacerbate international tension. Strengthening military presence in Hawaii would be seen by China and other perceived threats as a hostile act. Building military force is not an act of good will toward others and will not bring peace for future generations. The people of Hawaii do not want to be perceived as a threat to others, and the military has no right to put us in that unwanted position. There has been enough destruction on our islands. We want to be seen as a people who want peace.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 12:08 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: ramona@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for SCR139 on 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR139

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ramona Hussey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ramona@lava.net
Submitted on: 4/19/2012

Comments:

I simply cannot object more strenuously to spending taxpayer money for increasing the 'visibility' of our military presence in Hawaii.

We are already OVER-militarized! The enormous cost in environmental destruction, use of valuable land and resources for preparation for killing other peoples, and the neglect of our own social needs just makes me want to vote you all out of office! Please do not encourage more military here in the islands.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 12:24 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR139 on 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR139

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kyle Kajihiro
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/19/2012

Comments:

The US should reduce its military presence in the Asia Pacific region and invest instead in sustainable economic and environmental programs throughout the region. US bases, troops and weapons have enormous negative impacts on communities and the environment, which has generated powerful opposition from local communities in Korea, Guam, Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines, Australia. We cannot afford to have these problems move to Hawaii. Furthermore, the US military pivot to contain China is intensifying tensions and regional insecurity. The US military must clean up and restore Hawaiian 'ceded' lands that were wrongfully acquired. Base closure and conversion can be an opportunity to create new economic and social opportunities. Investment in the community capacity to conduct environmental restoration and conversion of military occupied lands can help to generate green jobs and future economic opportunities for Hawaii. But the time to invest in base conversion is now, not after US economic realities force continued budget cuts that do not allow for military conversion.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 8:12 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: Klevy@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SCR139 on 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR139

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelea levy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Klevy@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 4/19/2012

Comments:

The language of this bill is blatantly imperialistic. "protecting" or more like "projecting" American commerce by force, under the direction of the Hawaii chamber of commerce no less, is absolutely unacceptable. Making Hawaii become MORE militarized is unacceptable. If anything we need to get the military out of Hawaii and compete economically the old fashioned way...by making better products and services.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 8:58 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: eriola808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR139 on 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony *for PBM 4/20/2012 11:00:00 AM SCR139

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eri Oura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eriola808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2012

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The US military already has a strong presence here in Hawai'i and our local economy and businesses need more support to grow. Our goals need to reflect our need for self-sufficiency and further support of military presence will greatly stifle our abilities as residents to fulfill those needs. KILL THIS BILL!!